

BIRTH and RE-BIRTH

*By
Mabel Hoyle Knipe*



Fairhaven High School Alumni Association
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Dedication



This Project is Dedicated
to

Mary Howland Battaini

In recognition of the expertise
friendliness and good humor
with which she is leading her fellow alumni
in a generous restoration of Fairhaven High School.

M.H.K.
June, 1987

BIRTH and RE-BIRTH

History of the Fairhaven High School Alumni Association

I

The idea of organizing a Fairhaven High School Alumni Association was first conceived by Mr Norman M. Paull, member of a prestigious town family and graduate of Fairhaven High School — Class of 1887 He had been valedictorian of his class, was a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and became a civil engineer and a professional contractor In January of 1894 — as an adult resident of his home town, he sought to rally graduates of his high school around the proposition of forming a F.H.S. Alumni Association. To be sure various classes of the school from time to time had raggedly promoted their own get-to-gethers, but there had been structured no unification of *all* graduates in a common purpose of friendship and usefulness to the school and town.

Mr Paull's call was heard with interest by thirteen F.H.S. graduates, and in February of 1894, a meeting was held with manifestation of much enthusiasm. Two weeks later fifteen graduates met purposefully in the Unitarian Church vestry and a tentative constitution was drafted. However it was not until April of 1894 that committees were appointed to prepare lists of graduates, and to work more heroically on preparation of a working constitution. The initial group was now convinced that the "alumni cannot fail of success, if everyone will become interested!" (FAIRHAVEN STAR 4/14/1894)

Things moved a bit off dead center when a nominating committee was appointed. Members were: Mrs. Lydia Church Miss Alice Tallman, Miss Sadie Stetson, Mr George Tripp and J.I. Gillingham, Esq.

Then great strides were made in a meeting in late April held in the banquet room of the town hall where the much be-labored constitution was adopted and officers were elected. No one, however wanted to be president! So the final slate read as follows:

President	?
Vice Presidents	George H. Tripp Herbert Jenney Bessie Eldridge
Corresponding Secretary	.. Lydia Church
Recording Secretary	Norman M. Paull
Treasurer	Lizzie Merrill
Counsellors	Augustus Reccord, Hattie S. Phillips, James I. Gillingham Albert B. Collins

I

The constitution approved was printed in the STAR (4/28/1894). It was quite a distinctive document of purpose, and listed 15 articles:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Name | 9. Duties of Officers |
| 2. Purpose | 10. Payment of Bills |
| 3. Classes of Members | 11. Dues |
| 4. Privileges of Members | 12. Non-Payment of Dues |
| 5. Admission of New Members | 13. Quorums |
| 6. Meetings | 14. Amendments |
| 7 Offices | 15. Time of Adoption |
| 8. Election of Officers | |

Now that the thorny matter of the constitution had been adjudicated, much more "heart" was brought to the project, and late in July of 1894, twenty alumni met in the Unitarian Church vestry once more and made arrangements for a grand re-union. Committees were appointed on decoration, choice of site, on supper on music, on invitations and on advertising. Names of possible speakers were reviewed, among these being Charles P Rugg, Lemuel Willcox of New Bedford, Henry H. Rogers and Mr Jenney formerly a town resident.

Much interest in the project now surfaced, and at another July meeting, 25 members were present, and several new members signed the constitution, bringing the total of signers to 44. Greatly encouraged, the officers sent copies of the constitution vouchers to all out-of-town graduates with known addresses.

It was now announced that all former pupils of the school were eligible for membership whether or not they had graduated — and whether or not they had joined the association, *all* F.H.S. former students were welcome at the banquet. Tickets were reasonably priced at 60¢.

Thus, in mid August of 1894, the first re-union of the F.H.S. Alumni Association was held in the banquet hall of the town hall. It was an affair of great good will. George H. Tripp presided and welcomed the guests. He lauded the educational system of the town, and declared that "More books have been taken from the Millicent Library and read thoroughly than in any other place twice the size of Fairhaven in the state!"

A letter of regret and congratulation from H.H. Rogers was read. He hoped the association would be a permanent success and vastly regretted he could not be present. C.P Rugg, a former principal of the school stated that the high school was a benefit to all, and the teachers should be chosen with care as "to them is given a sacred trust."

The STAR printed a complete list of those in attendance — graduates from 1852-1895. Dr C.C. Cundall, chairman of the School Committee, said that as the head and father of the school family he was "very proud of my children and grand-children." Then, Miss Annie J. Fairchild read a poem

written for the occasion by Lewis S. Judd, Jr., of the Astor Library in New York, and a graduate of the school.

Albert B. Collins, in lauding the school, said that "there is something about the home school that is like Mother's Minced Pies!" Norman M. Paull, chief protagonist in the movement, spoke of his pride and confidence in the new organization.

The caterers of Parker House New Bedford, served a palatable dinner while Brady and Sullivan's orchestra entertained.

In the days after this outstanding event, the new association, flushed with pride in the success of their first re-union, and secure in the organizational effect of a constitution, now cast about for solid purpose. In September of 1894, they chose as their first civic endeavor the improvement of the high school grounds. Henry H. Rogers offered the services of his gardner James Garthley in a supervisory capacity and sound planning ensued. It was decided to lay a 6-foot concrete walk from the sidewalk on Main Street to the school building, while grading of the north lawn and trimming of trees in the yard were also undertaken. These plans proceeded a-pace under Mr Garthley's able direction, and the association was further encouraged by Mr Rogers' offer of his personal room in the newly constructed town hall as the official meeting place of the group.

By the end of September 1894, useful committee work was charted when a plan to write a school history was broached, and class secretaries were appointed as follows:

1852-56	Miss N.P. Delano
1857-60	Miss L.M. Church
1861-64	Mrs. H.S. Philips
1869-72	George H. Tripp
1873-76	Mrs. S.E.C. Goodnow
1877-80	Miss A.B. Robinson
1881-84	Thomas Fairchild
1885-88	Miss H.B. Copeland
1889-92	Miss A.H. Williams
1893-94	Miss A.M. Nye

Before the year ended, tampering with the constitution occurred as it was altered to accommodate circumstances, and an amendment resulted so that any person who ever *attended* F.H.S. could become a member. At this time, the name of the association was changed from the F.H.S. *Alumni* Association to the F.H.S. *Association*. The group carried this title well into the 20th century. At this time also, Mr Rogers was prevailed upon to become president of the association, an office which he proudly held until his death in 1909.

After consummation of all this necessary but dull organizational planning — a little light sociability seemed called for and it was decided to combine forces in presentation of a play which would bring some publicity for the new group, and with a little luck — some much needed money for an almost non-existent treasury. Thus was presented the first of many Thespian efforts which the association has undertaken over the years. In December of 1894, a drama, THE TRUSTEE, was offered the community. Fifteen members of F.H.S. classes comprised the cast, and profits amounted to \$50. The FAIRHAVEN STAR states that it was "altogether the best entertainment by local talent that has been furnished for some time."

But it was for the issue of February 2, 1895 that the town newspaper reserved its highest accolades on behalf of the second re-union of the F.H.S. Association. "This was" says the STAR, "one of the pleasantest events in the town's history."

The affair was held in the town hall banquet room with Mr. Rogers at his best, dispensing affability as president. Plates were laid for 230 people at seven long tables. There were much sociability and much jesting, intermingled with sentiments of loftiness and high values in the remarks of ten or twelve very talented speakers. Their words are extant in the STAR, and when read indicate a truly remarkable group of people.

It was in July of 1895 that the association became aware of the historic impact of the group and its activities. It was voted to place all reports of the secretaries in the care of the librarian of the Millicent Library.

The impact of Mr Rogers' interest and influence in the new association was heartening to the group, and was possibly the best kind of advertisement for its existence. For instance, a clambake was held in the grove at Beacon Villa (environs of Fort Phoenix). In August of 1895, four hundred people attended this event, and in the evening, a program was held in the town hall where Mr. Rogers presided and personally read a little-known but very tender story by Mark Twain, a work that had never been published. It was entitled THE CALIFORNIAN'S TALE, and Mr Rogers had called Twain to ask if he might read it to the assembled alumni. Twain had readily acquiesced and added: "Give them my love!" Such attentioin as this by the nation's chief story teller was first rate advertising for the group, and certainly stimulating to a sense of real worth.

The mid-summer clambake at Fort Phoenix came to be an established re-union event and was popular for many years. In fact it was at the annual clambake meeting in 1896, that serious discussion arose among the members about the increasing shoddiness of Fairhaven High School. The Rogers School opened in 1885 had evoked much pride in its pristine newness. The Millicent Library (1893) and the town hall (1894) were

splendid monuments to civic and literary excellence. Yet, the little remodelled Methodist church which housed Fairhaven's older scholars was becoming disgracefully decrepit. At this 1896 clambake members suggested that the newly-formed Alumni Association should consider raising funds for a new high school!

Now to any researcher reading of the steady land acquisition and building program already established by Rogers interests in town, it was evident that Rogers himself was even then considering a new Fairhaven High School. The ring of lovely buildings which he was gradually erecting about a verdant Cushman Park (once the Mill Pond) cried out for establishment of one last great structure at the town's very entrance. He had fought hard to straighten out that ugly crook where the bridge had entered town by way of Bridge Street. When the last New Bedford-Fairhaven bridge had been built, it had taken a concerted effort of all Mr Rogers' adherents to obtain votes for assurance of a clean, straight access into town which is today Fairhaven's signal charm. Surely a man of Rogers' acumen and imagination had envisioned a beautiful building facing that entrance! Moreover he had, for some years, been buying up land in that particular area — and then, his beloved *old* Fairhaven High School was just across the street!

If the alumni at that clambake in 1896 had any intimation of these matters, we do not know but they voted to start raising funds for a new high school, and Mr Rogers remarked facetiously that if all graduates of the high school would join the association, there would be a total of some 2,000 alumni — and if all these paid their dues for 100 years, the building could be started at once! In a less facetious vein, he approved the plan and remarked that he was for it, and if all went right for him in the next few years — that he certainly would "go along!"

Now, in 1897 the members, under the influence of Miss Annie J. Fairchild, began to discuss for the association, the development of loftier aims, and more of a contribution to intellectualism! A winter meeting was built around this aim. It was a good meeting. Mr Rogers spoke warmly on the topic, and his remarks involved the world of finance: trusts, combinations and monopolies. His speech was published verbatim in the STAR, and was enlightening and significant of the financial philosophy of his day.

In 1899 — still casting about for ideas to expand usefulness — the members of the association established a fund to defray expenses for scholarships to be awarded graduates of F.H.S. in seeking further training; and Mr Edmund Anthony offered a \$10 prize to students for excellence in English. However the energies of the group came now to be centered primarily upon the 50th anniversary of the founding of Fairhaven High School. Festivities were planned for two days of celebration on January 26 and 27 of 1902.

The program commenced on a Sunday with special religious services in the morning held in the Congregational Church — and ended with a banquet in the town hall on the Monday evening following. The most dramatic phase of the program, however took place on the Monday *morning* when a mock school session was featured. The atmosphere of an old-time school was reproduced, and scholars sat once more on hard bottomed seats. Alumni women wore the quaint gowns of little girls of their youth, and the "boys" made a point of cutting up as they used to do when they were supposed to be absorbing knowledge!

George H. Tripp was the school master and the exercises opened with his ringing the bell long and violently — after which the "class" sang "Bright Rosy Morning." Norman Paull and Melora Handy were tardy! Miss Handy announced that her hat had blown over into the Mill Pond, and Paull had had to rescue it!

Mr Tripp expounded emphatically on spit balls, note-writing, and *pickles*! He threatened that if there were any more pickle bringing to school — the rod was imminent!

Mr Rogers was an excruciatingly difficult student — his mind and remarks constantly on *hens*, *chickens* and *eggs*! When asked if he were chewing gum, he answered: "No, Sir It's TOBACCO!"

Yet, in the midst of all this mirth, Mr Rogers received from Job C. Tripp a visiting School Committee member — a prepared "diploma" with drawings by L.D. Eldred, prominent Fairhaven artist. The document read as follows:

This Diploma Is Awarded To
HENRY HUTTLESTON ROGERS

As a memorial of old school days; as an expression of grateful appreciation of his loyalty to his native town and interest in improving its educational facilities; and as a souvenir of the semi-centennial celebration.

Signed as representing the sentiments of all by
Job C. Tripp, School Committee, 1851 & 1902

The good will of this event was unique. Four hundred attended the Monday evening banquet, menu for which was extensive with a poetic sentiment gracing the printed description of each course!

After-dinner speeches were of extraordinary quality and every word spoken was printed in a special edition of the FAIRHAVEN STAR of February 1 1902. Mr Lewis S. Judd wrote and delivered a twenty-three verse poem which he prepared for the occasion, and Mrs. Jennie A. Gifford of Worcester — the only "grandmother" of her class — brought down the house with "classic" verse as follows:

THAT BOY O'ROGERS

*That boy o'Rogers, Lord spare me
From raisin such a brat as he,
If ever mischief was biled down
Into a freckled, red-haired clown,
And turned loose on two spindlin shanks,
'Thas that ar boy o'Rogers.*

*'Twant no question but he'd be
Inside the penitentiary
A'fore he was a man full grown
He could conspire more tricks alone
Than any boy I ever seed,
The biggest scamp we all agreed,
Was that ar boy o'Rogers!*

*He turned up missin went out west,
I' low we thought it was the best
Thing that had happened yit
When he made up his mind to git
For us he couldn't go too fur
And we all said, Good riddance sir
To that ar boy o'Rogers.*

*He left us twenty years ago,
I was out west a month or so
Las' spring, an Jack, my boy says he
I'll tak ye up today to see
The Guvenor! Well, sir I thought I'd bust,
I knew him when I seed him fust,
'Twas that ar boy o'Rogers!*

There now followed a quiet period in alumni activity. The mid-summer re-union clambakes at the Fort continued, and Mr Rogers was consistently voted in as president. To the solidity of the organization, he lent as always, his name and his influence and by 1905, plans were being drawn up by the association for the dedication of the splendid new high school being erected at last magnificent beyond the greatest expectation.

However Mr. Rogers decided on an informal dedication, and at his wish, the school was quietly opened on April 11 1906, on the 50th anniversary of his own graduation from Fairhaven High School. For some months, work had proceeded night and day that four recitation rooms on the first floor might be available for a modest yet significant observance for Henry Rogers, despite the rigors of business life which might well have contributed to callousness was a very sentimental man in his own

home town. The rather poignant commemoration was not to be witnessed by the public, so Mr and Mrs. Rogers surrounded by a few friends and town dignitaries, received the awed F.H.S. students in Room 4 of their yet unfinished school. Promptly at 10 o'clock all the high school pupils crossed from the old wooden school on Main Street to the new edifice. Each class was headed by a marshall and all 90 boys and girls were in the line. Each student shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and each received a warm greeting. The affair lasted half an hour after which, the young people left the great partially finished edifice to the workmen. Mr Rogers had ordained no publicity and Constable Barney was posted at the entrance to discourage reporters!

From the dates of September 15, 1906 to September 29, 1906, Saturday public visitation of the completed school was allowed, and the public swarmed into the new edifice by the hundreds. In these visitation days, members of the F.H.S., Association were vastly useful, and in 1907 when Rogers had the old private Academy building moved onto the high school campus members of the association met to consider and rectify what might have been a very difficult condition at the busy corner George H. Tripp Thomas A. Tripp and Sara B. Clarke were association representatives to over-see plans.

Until his death in 1909, the alumni of F.H.S. had depended hugely upon the support and prestige of their president. He had advised them in confrontation of problems, and uplifted them by his gaiety and charm at all their social events. He had given them the school they had craved a school wondrous beyond any expectation. His death, then, in 1909, was a singularly traumatic blow to all F.H.S. alumni.

At the 1910 mid-winter alumni re-union in the town hall, there was sombreness and genuine sorrow. Members were requested to wear a pink on January 29, for Mr Rogers' birthday. For many years thereafter their president was greatly missed. He had been with them at the beginning. He had been uniquely one of their own, and he reminded of the worth of their own background, and the value of the beliefs they had been taught. His success had been theirs, and his jocularly had lifted their hearts. In his honor the following resolutions were drawn up:

Resolutions Adopted on the Death of

HENRY HUTTLESTONE ROGERS

August 12, 1909

In the death of *HENRY HUTTLESTONE ROGERS*, the schools of Fairhaven have lost a devoted friend and munificent benefactor and the High School Association its honored President from the time of its organization.

He more than any other promoted the foundation of this society which has for its aim the social relation of its members and the advancement of the material and educational facilities of the school.

As the first gift to his native town was a primary school his latest gift, the new High School building, this shows his ardent desire to promote the practical education of the young citizens of Fairhaven.

Therefore it is with profound grief that we, the members of this Association record our sorrow for the loss of our friend, and while lamenting our deprivation, rejoice that he lived to see the completion of his cherished plans.

We extend to the family of Mr Rogers, our sincere sympathy

Fairhaven High School Association

From Secretary's Report

August 12, 1909

In 1913 a custom was established of holding a re-union on the evening of high school graduation, and greeting each current graduate at a reception. Dancing in the gymnasium was introduced, for now they had a spacious floor for this pastime. However the mid-summer clambake was still actively sponsored and never failed to attract a good crowd. In 1914 the bake cost 75¢ and 50 alumni attended.

The idea of "honorary" membership was introduced in 1907 when Edward C. Delano of Chicago and Job C. Tripp had been the first elected to honorary membership. Now in 1916, "associate" membership was sponsored, and it was voted that associate members "shall include the wife or husband of any person in full membership — also the master of the high school and town Superintendent of Schools." An associate member was entitled to attend all meetings and enter into discussion on any matter — but should have no vote!

The association of 1922 sponsored in June an alumni baseball team lined up against a team of current F.H.S. members. During the same

period, class re-unions and other social events took place within the high school. At six P.M., a motor parade proceeded to Fort Phoenix and the ever popular clambake. This same lively 1922 alumni group had sent out notices to all graduates with return postcards enclosed. Four hundred graduates showed up for this June gala, and class lists were rectified and enlarged. At this lively re-union, tickets for the clambake were \$1 and the oldest graduate present was Alice Fish, Class of 1854.

At this re-union, Superintendent of Schools Charles Prior told of a dire need among current high school graduates for financial help in pursuing further education. In response, the group voted to set up a scholarship fund, and in 1923 at the June re-union with 375 members voting, the raising of a \$10,000 scholarship fund was launched. Throughout the years, the association was very faithful to this project of providing student aid, and after the 1922 decision to take on this responsibility, extreme effort to earn funds to support the venture was expended. Association plays were prepared and presented; personal solicitation was tried; and many educational and very pleasant projects were brought to the community for money making. In 1940, the New Bedford Men's Glee Club was presented; in 1941 Alton Blackington, well-known news commentator came to town under auspices of the association. In 1950, the Tufts College prestigious Glee Club performed. Tile sales; doll raffles; coin cards; card parties; pot luck suppers; rummage and food sales — all these means were used to augment the treasury so that the scholarship project might thrive.

During the 1940's, however efforts gave way before the exigencies of World War II, and expanding funds were invested in purchase of War Bonds. After the war many graduates who had travelled to far places and observed opportunities elsewhere, left town for more exciting ventures, and the number of alumni living in town shrank markedly. The little association struggled valiantly but never seemed to recover its prestige, and the last recorded meeting is announced in the STAR as of June 26, 1958. However careful records kept by the faithful last secretary Miss Helen Perry indicate board meetings held during 1959 and the early 1960's. During this time the remnants of the group strove to keep alive the scholarship program for F.H.S. graduates — so long a priority of the association. Miss Perry's careful reports stop for good on October 24, 1962; the Fairhaven High School Alumni Association was but a memory and the far-flung graduates had no focus on which to project affection for school and town.

Thus matters stood until early in 1978, when suddenly there ensued general comment and concern about the shameful shoddiness of Fairhaven High School. Anyone could see that both the exterior and interior were sadly in need of repair and restoration. F.H.S. was seventy-five years old, and her services had been claimed by hundreds of students who had always appreciated her unique charms. Now her window frames were rotting; her gutters leaked; her down-spouts were missing; her roofs were mutilated by broken slates; and her chimneys leaned perilously. Moreover connective cement was everywhere spilling from between the great granite blocks which formed her structure!

Yet, this was the beautiful million-dollar high school that H.H. Rogers had given the town in 1906; it was *not* the decrepit little Methodist church, the condition of which, alumni had deplored in 1896. But the out-cry and dismay of 1978 was almost an exact re-run of a very old sound track!

To be sure, an ample sustaining fund for the school had been set up by the Rogers children after their father's death in 1909. They knew of his intent to establish such a fund, but they were not possessed of his far-seeing business vision — and terms governing use of generous funds were rather loose and indiscriminating. Used strictly and consistently for maintenance over the years, the moneys available would have been adequate to keep the expensive building in good repair. However not nearly enough of the fund had been dedicated to maintenance purposes, and the neglected structural aspects were an unhappy evidence.

In a 1978 town meeting, attention of the members was directed to the problem, and it was pointed out that immediate repair of the exterior was a prime necessity lest exposure to the weather do irremedial harm to the beautiful building. Preservation Partnership, a firm of noted restoration architects, was hired to do the work, and a complete exterior repair and restoration was completed during 1979-1981 under the supervision of architects Maximillian L. Ferro and Carol Ann Nelson. Costs for the project were in the vicinity of \$1,000,000, and the work was done by Brown, Rona Inc. of Boston, and Sullivan and Foster of New Bedford.

After such immense expenditure, it was unrealistic to ask Fairhaven tax payers to deal with the interior of the school, but there was great need of immediate attention within, where much of the most endearing beauty was remembered by graduates. In response to this dilemma, town alumni met in the school assembly hall in October of 1980 and decided to re-unite and throw their strength into plans to raise money for the purpose of restoring and re-beautifying the interior of F.H.S.

Mr Stanley Grabiec, current principal of the school, Miss Elizabeth Hastings and Mrs. Mabel Hoyle Knipe, retired town educators, spoke to

the assembled alumni and broached the purpose of the meeting. The sad neglect of the interior was everywhere obvious, and it was noted that in 1981 F.H.S. would celebrate its 75th birthday. If \$75,000 could be raised, the sum would represent a thousand dollars for each year of the school's history.

Before that meeting terminated, Mary Howland Battaini was chosen president of a renewed aspect of alumni history with a specific purpose of restoring the interior of F.H.S. Explanatory letters were sent out to all available alumni, and at the time, only 7,000 could be located. Herculean efforts were made to expand these lists, particularly through records of class re-union personnel; and currently lists — although not totally complete — are vastly augmented, and represent in themselves a remarkable resurrection of alumni concern from all over the country.

Checks and letters of approval poured in, so many of them indicating a unique affection for the town, and over and over bearing the message: "I Love That School!"

The first funding, largely from private donations was used to renovate Room 7 — the huge first floor study hall. The spectacular ceiling of this room which all alumni remembered — and which had become encrusted with grime — was examined carefully and found to need not only cleaning, but intricate cosmetic plaster repair of a very special nature. By means of staging, this task was professionally undertaken. Then the whole expanse was washed and painted, with resulting re-discovery of an artistry which had been lost in the grime of 75 years!

Walls were painted in the original shade; the floor was refinished; splendid oaken wood panelling was cleansed and treated. The fine old instructor's desk and table were professionally refinished; and over the teachers' dais, the renovated portrait of Mr Rogers — part of the room for so many years — was rehung.

Also in 1982, both the east and west foyers were renewed. The exquisite soaring ceilings with their circular golden clusters of lights were cleansed and re-painted; the walls were freshly done, and the woodwork refinished.

In 1983, most private donations were used to restore the principal's office, the small circular room off the east foyer. Here the walls were painted, woodwork renewed, and the old desk refinished. New rugs and drapes brought color and warmth to the place, and Mr Rogers' original brass andirons, burnished to high lustre, twinkled on the hearth.

All this renewal had been accomplished by means of steady donations constantly coming in response to pleas from remarkable committees of untiring alumni. By this time, an effective if unorthodox organization had been automatically forming. With Mrs. Battaini consenting to continue as

president, a treasurer and secretary had been chosen, and a Board of 15 members met in frequent conference to decide on all matters of prime importance. When it was apparent that the project was so badly needed, and withal the task so pleasurable — a Priority Committee was established to designate areas where continuing renewal should be considered.

On Christmas of 1983, a productive year ended with a very beautiful Christmas musical program held in the auditorium sumptuously decorated with Christmas plants and garlands. Never had the old hall and the pristine corridors seemed more lovely a potent stimulus to the great 1984 project, which was to be a complete renovation of this very auditorium.

This undertaking was to take the ultimate in effort; yet it was done in a beautiful reclamation undertaken by architect Carol Ann Nelson and her chosen coterie of artists, designers, researchers, and building experts — with alumnus John Medeiros as alumni adviser. By means of heavy and expensive staging, walls and ceiling of the great hall were re-painted and re-finished. All the old original seats were sent west for the expert repair unobtainable in this area, and professional and imaginative manipulation of electrical features resulted in fantastic use of the old chandeliers.

Completed in June of 1984, the renovation of this room alone cost about \$150,000, and was financed by private donations and by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

On June 2, 1984, a splendid Restoration Dinner was planned at \$50 a head! There was first a reception in the sparkling school foyers, after which, patrons viewed the restoration of the auditorium, and seated amid its renewed grandeur, heard a brief program of speaking by Mary Battaini, President of the F.H.S. Alumni Association, and by Paul Peralta-Ramos, a great grandson of H.H. Rogers. The main speech, "Going Along" was delivered by Mabel Hoyle Knipe to whom the hall had been dedicated in 1975.

The Restoration Dinner held in the school refectory was a fine repast reminiscent of the splendid 50th anniversary banquet which H.H. Rogers and contemporaries made so memorable and nostalgic.

The work of the association in sponsoring these unique projects was recognized in 1984 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission which pledged about \$45,000 to the renovation effort. In the interim, fifteen area residents — with great faith and generosity — pledged to cover \$3,000 each in co-signing a loan to serve as a front for the on-coming state grant.

Thus, on May 18, 1984, the Fairhaven High School Alumni Association and the Town of Fairhaven were recipients of one of ten state-wide awards presented at the sixth annual Massachusetts Historical

Commission ceremony held in the Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford, Mass.

In the meantime, the fund-raising continues unabated. Well patronized Home Coming Days are held several times a year; cup plates are sold to augment funds; a car has been raffled; town associations have responded generously to frequent appeals; splendid Christmas trees donated by two F.H.S. graduates have been raised in the patio area just outside Room 7 their twinkling lights representing the \$5 gifts of hundreds of friends and alumni who have contributed during the Christmas seasons to the aggrandizement of their school.

The area newspaper "The Advocate" has been a good friend to the cause by opening its columns to announcements of dates and procedures, and by sending, free of charge, its yearly Alumni Number to the thousands of graduates whose names are verified on the ever expanding lists of the association.

It would be virtually impossible to list the names of all the "movers and shakers" in this tremendous alumni project, and they themselves would not desire or expect it. They are not out for publicity but in their affection for their school and in remembrance of good days spent there — they have shown the most unique altruism. All citizens of Fairhaven should feel the warmest pride in this association whose members were educated in the Fairhaven school system, and who by the magnificence of their sacrifice and vision — have amply proved the worth of that training.

Indeed, perhaps one of the astounding "side effects" of this whole generous endeavor is the fact that a nearly defunct alumni association has found resurgence of direction and renewed comradeship in support of a common goal.

Whatever the financial outcome of the F.H.S. restoration project this refreshment of alumni spirit and pride will represent, in itself, a truly laudatory result.

And now at the beginning of 1987 the effort continues unabated. All sorts of exciting prospects are being considered, and hopes run high! Today the Fairhaven High School Alumni Association is very much alive!

Mabel Hoyle Knipe
Millicent Library
December 1986

Presidents of Fairhaven High School Alumni Association

HENRY H. ROGERS

1894-1909

Office Left Open As Mark Of Respect Until 1912

William Allen	1912
John T. Hanna, Jr	1915
Leroy B. Newton	1918
Frank M. Babbitt	1922
Ellsworth M. Burgess	1925
Roswell B. Dunham	1927
William Tallman	1928
Webster Wilde	1930
Pierce D. Brown	1932
Clyde L. Rounselle	1933
Richard A. Dennie	1935
Harold B. Dutton, Jr	1936
Edith G. Kenney	1937
Barney Guy	1938
Prescott Sherman	1939
George Axtell	1940
Waldo E. Haydon	1941
Alice Perry	1942
Ruth Dutton Gifford	1943
Harry Rogers	1944
Colby H. Benson, Jr	1945
Mildred A. Maynard	1946
Bradford Terry	1947
Raymond P. Waterman	1948
Harold B. Dutton	1951
Edward McDermott	1952
Cuthbert Tunstall	1954
Helen Perry	1956
George A. Bunnell, Jr.	1958

This list has been compiled from examination of news items from THE FAIRHAVEN STAR.

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FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
Fairhaven, Massachusetts